

**INFORMATION:** A retired racing greyhound's "run" is their home at the kennel. Most dogs are housed in individual, roomy stalls with their bed, blankets, water, and toys. There are 40 of these stalls called "runs." Sometimes we receive several retired racers at a time and must house them in large dog crates. Whether a stall or a crate, this space is private for each dog. Racers never shared runs in their adult lives and were enclosed for 22 or more hours a day. In their runs or crates, they do not welcome a person's hands, arms, or body in their space. They can bite out of bed guarding or fear.

**PRACTICE:** Branching scenarios for the learner to practice how to remove a dog for turn out and then resettle it into its run.

**ACTION:** Remain outside of a greyhound's kennel "run" or crate when the dog is in it.

**INFORMATION:** Some greyhounds have high prey drives and will pursue and attack other dogs in the aisle between the rows of dog runs. Reactive greyhounds can also attack humans out of fear or excitement.

**PRACTICE:** Identify then match safe and unsafe situations in the kennel aisle and yards.

**ACTION:** Lead a dog from its run into the aisle only when there are no other dogs present in the aisle between the rows of dog runs.

**INFORMATION:** Greyhounds often retire out of racing with injuries to their feet, legs, and back. Dogs at the kennel may be recovering from surgeries for these injuries, including amputation. Greyhounds are very strong, and some greyhounds have an especially high prey drive, or may enthusiastically jump up on volunteers.

**PRACTICE:** Read and decipher dog codes on the turnout board and on the chart on the gate of the dog's run. Match the codes to specific concerns with the dog.

**ACTION:** Interpret codes and key information for each dog on the kennel's white board chart.

**INFORMATION:** Greyhounds have arrived at our kennel from places around the world, including the US, Mexico, Ireland, and Australia. They are not socialized with each other and are unfamiliar with our employees and volunteers when they arrive. There are rules for numbers of dogs and volunteers in each yard, including additional rules if the volunteers are between 16-18 years old.

**PRACTICE:** Read the rules for numbers of dogs and humans in each turnout yards. Drag and drop the number of dogs and volunteers that can safely be in each yard at one time, including additional adults to accompany teenagers.

**ACTION:** Identify the number of dogs and volunteers in the turnout yard and abide by the kennel rules for numbers, including additional rules for teenagers between 16-18.

#### STORY:

Since 1985, this nonprofit greyhound kennel has helped thousands of retired racing greyhounds find their forever homes through the love and dedication of hundreds of volunteers. The large kennel, able to house up to 80 dogs at a time, is staffed by only three paid employees, so volunteers are critical to the welfare of the dogs. Since the pandemic, volunteer turnover is high and preventable injuries to dogs and humans have occurred due to inconsistent training of volunteers. Earlier this month, a volunteer was leading a high-prey greyhound by its collar to the turnout yard. The dog slipped its collar and bit another dog and a volunteer in the kennel aisle. Thankfully, the bites were treatable, and both the dog and volunteer recovered. This dangerous situation occurred because both volunteers received inconsistent and inadequate training and were unaware their actions led to these preventable injuries. **The implementation of an eLearning training program accompanied by in-person training will increase the safety of dogs and people at the kennel.**

**GOAL:** Maintain the safety of greyhounds and volunteers by avoiding 100% preventable injuries that occur due to inconsistent volunteer training and volunteer turnover.

**ACTION:** Communicate verbally with dogs by using consistent, designated commands.

**PRACTICE:** Listen to several dog commands and select the appropriate one to use for the situation.

**INFORMATION:** Retired racing greyhounds have never lived in a house. They need to learn household manners and follow consistent, designated commands. Many volunteers come and go from the kennel, so the use of consistent commands is essential.

**ACTION:** Decide when to enlist a kennel employee's help for specific high-risk conditions or situations.

**PRACTICE:** Identify safe versus high-risk conditions or situations where volunteers are not allowed to interact with the dogs and must enlist help from employees.

**INFORMATION:** Sometimes sick greyhounds need to be carried to the yard. Only kennel employees may enter a run and carry a dog. Other dogs who are highly reactive must only be handled by kennel employees.

**ACTION:** Use slip leashes AND collars when leading the dogs from their runs to the yard.

**PRACTICE:** In person practice led by kennel employees.

**INFORMATION:** Dogs have slipped their collars when being led only by the collar, so volunteers must also use slip leashes.

**ACTION:** Determine which dogs can be turned out together based on chart codes.

**PRACTICE:** Match dogs that are compatible or incompatible to be turned out together based on their chart codes.

**INFORMATION:** As employees and volunteers get to know the greyhounds, dogs are matched together and turned out at the same time. This offers the dogs the routine of comfort and socialization.